



A NEW CALENDAR FOR A NEW WORLD

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**A**TTENTION of the readers of the *Journal of Calendar Reform* is directed to a different presentation of the calendars on the inside of the front cover. It shows clearly that this year 1944 is significant, because the last four months in the Gregorian calendar are fortunately identical as to days and dates with the last four months of The World Calendar. Beginning Friday, September 1, through Saturday, December 30, the calendars are interchangeable. Then the old December 31, a Sunday, becoming the new December W, an extra Saturday World Holiday, the new World Calendar would begin on Sunday, January 1, 1945. This indicates clearly how easy the change is. No dropping or adding of days is required.

There are many people keenly aware of the need for and the benefits resulting from this improved new calendar of equal quarters of 13 weeks, months of 26 weekdays plus Sundays, and the World Holidays that bring accuracy and stability to the ordered and well-balanced arrangement.

In war, peace and in all postwar planning this new reliable calendar is of the greatest value and commands recognition. To continue working with the planless, disordered and vacillating Gregorian calendar hardly seems a wise policy. Civilization would have to fumble as in the past, handicapped and hindered, because of the continuous and unwise use of the present extremely awkward and unsatisfactory calendar.

New buildings are not erected on outworn and insecure foundations. New conditions do not thrive on changeable and confused schedules. To deny this is to be blind to the fundamental law that like begets like, faulty foundations beget faulty results and good foundations beget good results. The tomorrows depend upon the acts of today.

There is a rule that progress is made slowly and does not come full blown into our lives. Gradually advancement is made, first by a few then by the many. For example in the realm of time, Roman Catholic countries alone adopted the Gregorian calendar; American and Canadian railways, Standard Time; and European railways and the Armed Forces, the 24-hour clock. These separate improvements were not universally accepted at once. Nations, groups, organizations and individuals would do well to consider the benefits of The World Calendar as it affects their various affairs, preliminary to general world adoption.

J O U R N A L O F

# CALENDAR REFORM

January, February, March  
1944

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# A WELL-NIGH PERFECT CALENDAR

By Elisabeth Achelis

*Abridged from an address given before the Ottawa and Montreal Centres of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, January 19, 20, 1944.*

ALTHOUGH not a scientist, I feel deeply privileged to talk with you this evening on a subject which is closely linked to science. The accomplishment of astronomy in the measurement of time, the calendar, is one of proud achievement. It deserves full and lasting praise. From the beginning of science, astronomers, first with the naked eye and later with super telescopes, have meticulously measured the movements of the celestial bodies and the planet Earth, better to ascertain the regular coming of the seasons and the accurate length of the year. From the earliest moon, star and Egyptian calendars down to the present Gregorian, the work has been admirably done. The calendar rests on a sound basis. We all realize that it is not as yet perfect. The calendar's beginning should really harmonize with one of the seasonal beginnings, but this is not of immediate importance. The present need is to improve the internal arrangement, better to serve the present and coming generations.

That the Gregorian calendar does not meet present requirements is clearly proved by the astronomers themselves. They have substituted a more dependable and stable time-system of their own to offset the erratic Gregorian. I refer to the Julian Day method which eliminates entirely the weeks, dates, months and years in their time reckoning. Thus January 1 of the new year, 1944, was the 2,431,091st day, and the year will close on the 2,431,457th day. The astronomer realizes, however, that counting by days only would be extremely awkward for daily life, entailing unnecessary hardships and inconveniences. The method of counting by the varying time-units, as day, date, week, month, season and year, is too valuable to discard. But he does demand, and justly so, that there is *planning* and *order* in the arrangement of the calendar, which is woefully lacking now.

The desire for order and stability in the calendar has also been recognized by the industrial world, and due credit should be given *it* for initiating the modern movement to meet this need. The various International



Congresses of Chambers of Commerce and Industrial and Commercial Organizations urged an improved calendar in their biennial meetings in 1910, 1912 and 1914, and the Swiss Government in 1914 was requested to investigate the entire field in order that some international action be taken. The first World War interfered and it was not until 1923 that the question was placed before the League of Nations for consideration. This resulted in an international conference being held in 1931. After a week's conference on the subject, which also included a fixed Easter date, the League of Nations at Geneva referred the calendar back again to the various governments for further study and consideration.

It was in that self-same year that your retiring President, Dr. H. R. Kingston, devoted considerable space in his annual report to the reform of the calendar. The two plans that survived the 500 submitted to the League were the 13-month plan of 28 days and four weeks to every month, and the 12 months of four identical quarters, each quarter having three months of 31, 30, 30 days respectively, better known as The World Calendar. Dr. Kingston noted that the League report indicated strong opposition to the 13-month plan and general sympathy to the 12-month arrangement. Ever since that year, the *Royal Astronomical Society of Canada* has shown continued interest. It has proudly placed itself in the vanguard of the movement, from which it has never wavered. Such loyal consistency has been most encouraging to all who are working for an improved calendar.

In the Society's attitude toward a 12-month calendar of equal quarters, it followed the conclusion reached by Commission 32 of the *International Astronomical Union* when it deliberated on the subject in 1922. The Union recommended a perpetual 12-month equal-quarter calendar on the 31, 30, 30 basis. Four years later, the *Committee for Maritime Meteorology* likewise favored the 12-month, perpetual, equal-quarter plan. The World Calendar thus rests on good scientific ground, which has been further strengthened by the endorsement given it by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and other American scientific groups.

It is being said that this is not the time to change the calendar, when the world is in mortal combat and turmoil. Why should it not wait until after the cessation of arms and the postwar period? This can best be answered by the following:

Does a person who is ill wait until a future time to be cured? No, he does not. When the Commanding General of our Armed Forces discovered that the old system of counting clocktime by A.M. and P.M. led to confusion, did he wait until a more propitious time to adopt the better 24-hour system? No, he did not. When the Armed Forces discover that certain types of airplanes or instruments are outmoded and no longer the



best with which to wage victorious warfare, do they wait for the end of the war to make improvements? No, they do not. When a business man or manufacturer experiences inefficiency and loss of production and earnings because of poor management or tools, does he wait for a future time to improve conditions? No, he does not.

When errors, loss of product or earnings, and waste of time and material are discovered, the causes are remedied immediately to bring desired results. It is gross folly to do otherwise. *No war is won by delaying improvements, and no success is achieved by clinging unwisely to out-moded patterns and systems.*

And now when ideas and ideals are directed toward greater world cooperation with the purpose of building a better way of life for all peoples, it is obvious that the Gregorian calendar is at variance with these ideas and ideals. For, gentlemen, the calendar has gathered unto itself the barnacles of imperfections for 2,000 years.

You will agree with me that no system, however imperfect, should be discarded until we are convinced that the contemplated change is really an improvement and will stand up under scrutiny and test. The new time-plan should be one that best meets *all* requirements and takes into consideration *all* conditions. It should be global in aspect because of our more closely knitted world and should, for the most part, function universally. The perpetual World Calendar has proved itself capable of meeting these tests.

In its mathematical structure it is *well-nigh perfect*. Its 12 months are arranged into equal quarters of 91 days, each quarter is further subdivided into months of rhythmic 31, 30, 30 days, that total an even 13 weeks. Each quarter, beginning on Sunday and ending on Saturday, is a prototype of the completed calendar year that will always begin on Sunday, January 1, and close on Saturday, December 30.

To complete the year, however, the necessary 365th day is placed on an extra Saturday, after Saturday, December 30. It is called the Year-End Day or New Year's Eve and is the new World Holiday, dated December W. This new holiday is as far-reaching in its benefit as was the leap-year day introduced into the Julian reform. And the leap-year day, the old February 29, becomes another World Holiday, placed on another extra Saturday—the Leap-Year Day, June W. Thus the calendar attains stability, retains the familiar 12 months, and maintains the accurate length of the 365-day year with an occasional 366th day.

Within The World Calendar are the one or two new World Holidays which, unique in observance, are bound to exert a unifying influence on all nations. In its physical aspect, the Year-End Day or New Year's Eve World Holiday, coming between a Sabbath and a Sunday, completes and



seals every year as to its exact number of 365 days, 52 weeks, 12 months and 4 seasons. Thus there is present at the turn of every year no left-over of the old; the new begins with a clean slate, at scratch. The calendar ledger closes with the Year-End Day, December W, so that the ledger of the new year really begins with a new leaf.

In its broader aspect the new World Holiday, December W, becomes a great unifying day for all nations, peoples, races, governments and creeds. During its 24-hour-day observance, there will radiate a spirit of greater solidarity, of understanding, of amity and of good will. Whereas Christmas is the great Christian day of peace, good will to man, the new World Holiday may become, as its name implies, *the all-inclusive World Day of universal brotherhood and unity*, without interference with existing feast days. It may well be a step in the fulfillment of the Biblical prophecy of the tree of life that beareth 12 manner of fruits and yieldeth her fruit every month, and the leaves are for the healing of the nations. The World Holidays in their cumulative observances truly symbolize the healing leaves of nations.

Now let us contemplate for a few moments the direct advantages the new World Calendar will have on the war and home activities.

We have found that the exigencies of the war have already changed the clocktime to the 24-hour clock for the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces were quick to perceive the need of eliminating the confusion of the A.M. and P.M. method. In like manner, The World Calendar will permit greater precision, discipline, order and efficiency in the huge task of prosecuting the war, because of the better and more perfect *correlation* of all the various calendar units. We all know with what meticulous care war plans are blueprinted and carried out.

In one year the United States alone produced for the Allied armies 85 thousand planes, 60 thousand artillery weapons, 34 thousand tanks and almost 7 million small arms. These mountains of supplies piled up in North Africa, the Near East, India and Australia. And when the invasion of Europe is opened, the Army Service Forces will have the colossal task of supplying every item the invasion needs from tanks to safety pins. And closely following is the Dominion of Canada which has now become the fourth largest producer of munitions among the United Nations.

The responsibility of arming, feeding, clothing, fueling, transporting and healing the Army, and burying its dead, is the important function of the Army Service Forces. It is this perfect and all-embracing planning, which correlates these various functions, that the Military calls logistics. This service in the United States is under the direct supervision of Lieutenant General Somervell, who has said: "Good logistics alone cannot win a war. Bad logistics alone can lose."



Therefore, what the General has said of logistics applies to the loose and slipshod methods of the Gregorian calendar. It has no plan, the various time-units are in constant disagreement, and it is certainly "bad logistics." Our present calendar is costly and wasteful. It no longer efficiently serves the demands of war or the needs of the civilians at home.

While conditions on the home front are obviously different, they, too, would be greatly aided by an improved time-plan. Consider the difficulty of the manufacturer, the industrialist, the employer and also the wage earner in figuring how many weekdays or how many time-and-a-half or double-time days are in a month. Here the Gregorian calendar plays havoc with the best laid plans. Some months have *four* Saturdays and Sundays, thus less time-and-a-half and double-time wages are paid, whereas in months having *five* Saturdays and Sundays *extra* time-and-a-half or double-time must be paid. When quarter-years vary in their lengths of days such as 90, 91, 92, 92 (this year being a leap year, 91, 91, 92, 92) additional inconvenience is encountered. All this inconsistency sabotages valuable energy, time, labor and money.

I should like to point out certain specific examples of the sabotage that besets almost every type of business. In 1942, Christmas came on a Friday. Newspaper publishers and their circulation-managers were at their wits end. The publisher did not know how many columns of news and advertising to anticipate for the Saturday after Christmas, because he did not know how many stores were going to open on Saturday and how many were going to stay closed. The circulation-manager was equally as frantic, because he did not know how many papers he would be able to sell, since he had no idea whether people would go to business, stay at home and rest, or go away for a three-day week-end. In consequence of all this, one New York newspaper, with a circulation that exceeds one million, discovered not only that their advertising lineage was off 65 per cent, but that they had overprinted 80 thousand papers. These were returned as useless waste. Had the perpetual World Calendar been in existence, with its regular order and agreeing days and dates, past records comparable from year to year would have better indicated the number of columns to print, the number of papers to publish.

With the constant wavering of the Gregorian calendar, October in 1942 had *five* Saturdays; and in the previous year, October had *four* Saturdays. There was thus a 25 per cent adjustment in Saturday's figures alone. In 1943, in the United States, a further adjustment had to be made in that month because the Columbus holiday, October 12, which was celebrated on Mondays the two previous years, was celebrated on a Tuesday. And we all know a Monday holiday means a long week-end for many prospective store buyers.



Here is a more detailed example: the case of a well-known electric utility company that produced 220 million kilowatt hours in January, 1936, as compared with 258 million in January, 1937. This shows an increase of 17 per cent, but we discovered that January, 1936, had an extra Saturday and Sunday on which the day's output is naturally less than on week-days—30 per cent less on Saturday and 75 per cent less on Sunday. Making allowance for this extra week-end, the rate of increase became 21.5 per cent instead of 17.3 per cent.

For education, the general custom to open schools in the United States is on the Tuesday after Labor Day. With Labor Day fluctuating from September 1 to September 8, the irregularity of the opening dates for schools, year after year, is most inconvenient. Under the New York State laws, I don't know what the laws are in Canada, a school year must include 190 teaching days to participate in the State school funds. The 190 teaching days cause difficulty when, for example, the school year opens on different dates each year. The first half of the year ending on January 25 contains 91 school days, whereas the second half ending on June 21 contains 95 school days. The so-called half-years or semesters, are far from equal and even, their internal arrangements are quite dissimilar. It is readily seen what a nightmare the Gregorian calendar is and how it causes all kinds of difficulties for the faculties and students in arranging schedules and vacations.

Wandering holidays add to the general confusion and uncertainty. Families are all too often separated at the vacation periods because these are observed differently in grammar and high schools, colleges and universities. And farmers who depend upon the help their sons and daughters can give them during vacations are at a loss to calculate this, because they change from year to year. With the perpetual World Calendar the regular schedule of holidays on agreeing days and dates will do much to smooth the way for educational, social, commercial and welfare activities.

The question arises, with the mention of holidays, as to how the one or two new World Holidays will be treated throughout the world. It is natural to suppose that the various nations will place these new holidays in the same category as their other holidays and maintain them on the same economic status. Each country is free to decide this question according to its accepted custom and legal requirement.

That the defects of the present calendar are recognized as serious detriments is clearly seen in the notable endorsements given The World Calendar by the three groups of *Chambers of Commerce in England*—the *London, British and Empire*—and by other Chambers in the United States such as the *New York State*, the *Chicago Association of Commerce*, the *Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Galveston Chambers*. In the labor



world, the *Labor Conference of American States* in Chile, 1936, approved it and in the same year the *International Labor Office* also recognized that "the present calendar is very unsatisfactory from economic, social and religious standpoints and that recent studies, investigations and reports have shown that there is a marked trend in favor of revision." It thus recommended that the League of Nations study the whole question. In the educational field, the United States *National Education Association* and the *World Federation of Education Associations* also favored a world calendar.

Toward the last quarter of the 19th century when travel on Canadian, United States and inter-European railroads was more general, some kind of uniformity in clocktime became increasingly urgent to avoid endless confusion and misunderstanding. I refer to Standard Time.

To a Canadian, Sanford Fleming, has generally been given credit for the idea in 1878 that a series of 24 time belts, each of 15 degrees, should circle our globe. However logical and practical, it did not win favor until in 1883 the railways in Canada and the American Railway Association took the initiative in adopting the new Standard Time. A conference held in Washington a year later brought the rest of the civilized countries into the fold, and it became international in use. The world was now more closely coordinated by the regular 24 time zones that brought order and stability to the clock throughout the world. It was instrumental in making the remarkably efficient and smooth performance of radio easier.

There are others, however, who have contributed toward the principle of Standard Time—notably in the United States, Charles Ferdinand Dowd. In 1872, he published a system that is identical with the Standard Time meridians in use today. Newspapers in the United States, in 1883, carried interesting accounts of the history of Standard Time and laid great emphasis on the work done by Mr. Dowd ever since 1869.

Gentlemen, there is usually more than one person to whom credit is due. In this instance, Canada and America are justly proud to give credit to two of their citizens for having provided mankind with the superior Standard Time system.

And this naturally leads me to give credit to another Canadian (by adoption), Moses B. Cotsworth. He contributed greatly in awakening the interest and showing the need for an improved calendar. His work was most valuable. Although his particular 13-month calendar plan has been discarded, as not being the *best*, every calendar reformer gladly pays tribute to him. He and his associates did the hard spade work which prepared the ground for the superior, more balanced and equalized calendar of 12 months and equal quarters—The World Calendar.

Today with the present war, international communication and trans-



portation by airplanes are expedited and increased everywhere, forming the world into one large organized body. *No place on the globe is more than 60 air hours away.* The uniformity of the calendar, as ordered and stabilized as Standard Time, becomes imperative. A perpetual new calendar, every year the same, and eventually in use throughout the world, is the natural complement to Standard Time.

Is it too much to hope that, in following the example of adopting Standard Time, Canada and the United States will again join in taking the initiative by adopting another time-measure—The World Calendar?

No improvement, however good, has been accepted without some opposition, and changing the Gregorian calendar is no exception. Certainly the scientific group has suffered much persecution and opposition in its many achievements. We need only to recall Ptolemy and Tycho Brahe, Copernicus and Galileo, and of more recent date, Bell and Edison, Pasteur and Madame Curie, who though derided and hindered in their sincere efforts to benefit mankind yet eventually achieved their goal.

Probably the greatest opposition to The World Calendar comes from certain religious orthodox groups. Their objections to The World Calendar arise from the fact that they see in the extra World Holidays an eight-day week, which violates their tradition of "the unbroken continuity of the seven-day week since time immemorial." This alleged concept is not justified by historical fact. For it is known that in the ancient Israel calendars there have been three different calendars employed at different times and that the revisions of the calendar were "in all likelihood, of a thoroughgoing nature."

Between the Biblical creation of the world and the days of Moses are untold years of conjecture and unproved theory. Even after the days of Moses it is generally conceded that the method of timekeeping was changed and altered. Later even, when the Christians changed the ancient Sabbath to Sunday for their day of worship, in commemoration of the first day of the week when the Lord rose from the dead, Christians all over the world at that moment of change experienced an eight-day week—the interval between the Sabbath of old and the Sunday, the new day of observance. We cannot accept such an arbitrary attitude that enslaves man to the past but rather seek open-mindedness and response to normal progress and development.

Here I am reminded of the story of Lot's wife, a sad commentary on all those who, looking backward, stand still. The most notable historical example of opposition to change is, perhaps, that of the fiery zealot, Saul of Tarsus, who, waging incessant war against a new religion, became blinded by his zeal. Notwithstanding this, when light and wisdom came to him, he became its foremost leader. So may we hope for The World



Calendar with its one or two World Holidays, that those who come to oppose will remain to approve.

The *real* fallacy of orthodox objection is that it does not recognize The World Calendar as a *civil calendar*. In revising the calendar it is not the intention to interfere with religious feast days and ritual. The Vatican in 1912 recognized this in a statement, and I quote:

"The Holy See declared that it made no objection but invited the civil powers to enter into an accord on the reform of the civil calendar, after which it would willingly grant its collaboration in so far as the matter affected religious feasts."

Among some of the religious endorsers for The World Calendar are the *Protestant Episcopal Church* and the *Methodist Council of Bishops* in the United States; the *Universal Christian Council for Life and Work* at Geneva, of which the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America is a member. The former Archbishop of Canterbury, in a debate on the calendar before the House of Lords, 1936, declared: "I have found it impossible to resist the plea for reform . . . I think it would be a real misfortune if this matter were allowed to drift." And the Vatican has stated there exists no insurmountable obstacle to calendar reform.

The question of adoption *now* becomes all important. The opportune moment to put any new calendar into operation is at that particular time when the day, date, month and year coincide in both the old and the new calendars. By that simple method the transitional year of confusion (when the Julian year became operative), and the dropping of 10 days (when the Gregorian calendar became effective), will be avoided.

Allow me to refer you to our good friend, H. W. Bearce, chief of the Division of Weights and Measures, National Bureau of Standards, United States Department of Commerce. By transposing Sunday, December 31 of this year 1944, to the extra Saturday, Year-End Day or New Year's Eve, December W, The World Calendar will begin the new year on *Sunday*, January 1, 1945. The next possibility would be Sunday, January 1, 1950.

In the face of all the advantages which I have stated and all the hardships we shall have to endure, I believe the delay has no justification and would prove lamentable. Apathy and indifference have no place in better planning for our modern world.

As the scientists of the old and the new age have ever stood in the foreground of new truths and progress, so may you today uphold their standard by approving and endorsing the perpetual World Calendar.

In the ardent desire and wish to organize and bring the world to saner, healthier and more wholesome conditions, your group can do no better than to sponsor The World Calendar—a plan that is ready at hand, that



has been endorsed by 14 nations and many international and national organizations.

For the *Royal Astronomical Society of Canada* to study and endorse The World Calendar would in all probability lead to similar action by the Royal Astronomical Society of London, of which the Astronomer Royal, Dr. H. Spencer-Jones, has so splendidly given his approval. And in my own country, the *American Astronomical Society* and notably the *National Academy of Sciences* in Washington will certainly wish to take action.\*

We stand on the threshold of changes in all ways of life among which belongs unquestionably The World Calendar. For Time to be really a healer, and we certainly have need of it in these catastrophic days, Time itself must be healed through its instrument the calendar, and aid in greater world cooperation, order, balance, stability and above all—unity.

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\* In this connection I would like to draw your attention to a questionnaire that, in 1942, Dr. William E. Castle, member of the National Academy of Sciences, sent to its 315 members on the desirability of adopting The World Calendar. Of the 168 answers received (more than half of its membership) 76 per cent approved this new time-plan.

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### “HERE IS A PRETTY MESS”

*From The Varsity, Undergraduate Newspaper of The University of Toronto, Canada,  
December 3, 1943*

UNNECESSARY holiday travel is deplored by the Transit Controller, but, since we live in a generally compassionate civilization, no restrictions are being imposed above those of the load limit of the available rolling stock. However, strong pleas are being voiced to avoid travel as much as possible over the holiday week-ends themselves.

New Year's Day comes on a Saturday. The Easter term begins the following Monday. The question, therefore, arises: “Are patriotic students to deprive themselves of vital lectures and labs?” Students, for the most part, like to get what they pay for, and, although they may skip the occasional lecture, most will probably return to college over the week-end when they are requested not to travel. Their right to do this will scarcely be argued against by the Transit Controller. There is a strong element of necessity in it. But couldn't this unfortunate dilemma have been avoided?

To the layman, unfamiliar with the technicalities of setting the year's academic calendar, it would seem quite possible. Does it seem logical, even in peacetime, to allow more than a week in which to get home before the first of the two holidays and two days to get back? Christmas comes on a Saturday. Classes end two Fridays before. Except for the fact that it is not customary for it to do so, why could not the term have ended on the Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday before Christmas, thus allowing more time to return to college after New Year's and avoid the holiday week-end rush?



# CANADIAN SOCIETIES HOSTS TO OFFICERS OF CALENDAR ASSOCIATION

INVITED to address the Ottawa and Montreal Centres of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Miss Elisabeth Achelis, President of The World Calendar Association, together with Emerson Brewer, the Director, made it a point to confer with World Calendar adherents in Toronto before the speaking engagements in the other two Canadian cities.

J. R. Gilley, Acting Warden of Hart House, University of Toronto, and W. R. Cowan, the Acting Comptroller of this student union, were hosts at a luncheon and a tea.

The luncheon, which was attended by a very representative group of people, was held at the Alexandra Palace Apartment Hotel. Those attending included:

Dr. Harvey Agnew, *Secretary, Canadian Hospital Council; Past President, American Hospital Association.*

Dr. R. H. Coats, *Dominion Statistician (retired); Visiting Professor of Political Economy, University of Toronto.*

A. B. Fennell, *Registrar, University of Toronto; Secretary, National Conference of Canadian Universities.*

Duncan B. Gillies, *Advertising Manager, "Industrial Canada" (Publication of Manufacturers Association).*

Otto Holden, *President, Royal Canadian Institute.*

Alan E. Hugg, *Representative, Canadian Youth Commission.*

D. MacArthur, *Head of News Service, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.*

Professor T. F. McIlwraith, *Professor of Anthropology, University of Toronto; Past President, Royal Canadian Institute.*

A. W. Rogers, *Secretary, Canadian Banker's Association.*

Dr. F. W. Routley, *National Commissioner of the Canadian Red Cross Society.*

V. R. Smith, *General Manager, Confederation Life Insurance Company; Chairman, Central Regional Committee, Chambers of Commerce.*

Andrew Thomson, *Assistant Controller, Meteorological Services of Canada.*

Drummond Wren, *Secretary, Workers Educational Association.*

After the luncheon Miss Achelis briefly discussed The World Calendar and its advantages, which was followed by a round-table discussion. Dr. R. H. Coats, with a few charming remarks, placed himself on record as favoring The World Calendar of 12 months because it was "the happy medium" between the present irregular Gregorian calendar and other more radical and disturbing types of time-plans.

Later in the afternoon a tea was held in the Warden's Study at Hart House. At this tea, in addition to Dr. Henry J. Cody, President of the University of Toronto, and Mrs. Cody were:

Mrs. Harvey Agnew, *National President, Y.W.C.A.*

Mrs. Grace Campbell, *Acting Secretary-Treasurer, University of Toronto Alumni Federation.*

Mrs. J. R. Gilley.

Mrs. W. L. Grant, *Chairman, Canadian Committee International Student Service.*

Mrs. Munro Greer, *President, Women's Canadian Club.*

Mrs. W. B. Horkins, *National President, Independent Order Daughters of the Empire.*

Miss Monica Mugan, *Commentator, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.*

Miss Ruth Northcott, *President, Royal Astronomical Society, Toronto Branch.*

Miss Marie Parkes, *Acting Secretary-Treasurer, Students Administrative Council, University of Toronto; National Commandant, University Training Section Canadian Red Cross Corps.*

Mrs. N. C. Stephens, *President, Local Council of Women.*

In commenting on Miss Achelis' remarks, the *Toronto Globe and Mail* had the following to say in an article headed "New Calendar Helps Anniversary Forgetters":

"On January 1, 1945, if all goes well for Miss Elisabeth Achelis of New York, the whole world will solemnly throw its 100-odd calendars into the Grand Canyon and start using her calendar.

"This is not to be treated with a light oh yeah, as many skeptics have already learned. Because Miss Achelis is a determined woman with an idea that makes sense.

"To relieve the suspense, the idea is this: The new World Calendar, as it has been named, divides the year neatly into four quarters of exactly 91 days each. This means that the first month of the quarter has 31 days, the second has 30 and the third has 30. There are 13 full weeks in each quarter, and precisely 26 weekdays, plus Sundays, in each month.

"Obviously the catch in this simplification is that 364 days aren't enough. That's where Miss Achelis rises to the heights. Triumphant, she has decreed that following December 30, which is a Saturday, there will be another Saturday—a world holiday which to avoid confusion will be known as December W. The extra day of leap year is disposed of just as neatly. It becomes June W, following June 30.

"Since each date always falls on the same day, anniversaries will be easier to remember. For instance, the first of January will always be a Sunday, and Valentine's Day will always be a Tuesday. February, which for 400 years has been a difficult month, will be relegated into obscurity as a plain 30-day month.

"The Gregorian calendar, which is the one in use now, is an unhappy family of time,' Miss Achelis stated yesterday when she addressed a group



of women at Hart House. 'Nothing agrees, nothing matches. The months run wild in terrible disorder. We are trying to bring some order in this madness, some simple equality to make a happy family of time.'

"The calendar lady, who is president and founder of The World Calendar Association, was invited to Canada for the first time to address the Royal Astronomical Societies of Montreal and Ottawa. En route, she stopped off yesterday in Toronto to address influential men and women and sound out their reactions.

"The pity of the whole world, in the event of Miss Achelis being successful, will be reserved for those poor mites who right now are struggling with 'Thirty days hath September, April, June and . . .'"

The *Toronto Daily Star*, in the January 18 issue, had this to say:

"On January 1, 1945, if Miss Elisabeth Achelis of New York has her way, the jingle that starts 'Thirty days hath September,' will be out of date. No more will you have to work out a mathematical formula to discover whether Christmas will fall on a Monday or a Tuesday or a Wednesday. Christmas Day in the New Calendar will always be a Monday. The year will begin with a new week, and every half-year and every quarter will have the same number of days.

"Next year is the best time to adopt the calendar, Miss Achelis says, because we can pass without a break from one system into the next. She pointed out that at the time of the adoption of our present calendar, just a little less than 200 years ago, 11 whole days, September 3-13, were dropped overboard. This sort of thing will be quite unnecessary if we change at the beginning of 1945."

In Ottawa, the Capital of the Dominion, a luncheon was given for Miss Achelis and Mr. Brewer by A. J. Hills, long identified with the Canadian National Railways and now Chairman of the National Joint Conference Board of the Construction Industry, together with H. S. Southam, Vice President of the Southam Publishing Company and publisher of the *Ottawa Citizen*. Prior to the luncheon, in company with Mr. Hills, Miss Achelis and Mr. Brewer visited the Parliament buildings and met and discussed The World Calendar with: W. J. Turnbull, Principal Secretary to the Right Honorable W. L. Mackenzie King; A. D. P. Heeney, Secretary to the Canadian Cabinet; Scott MacDonald, Undersecretary of External Affairs; and Thomas Wayling of the Press Gallery.

At the luncheon, which was held at the Country Club, were:

A. D. P. Heeney, *Secretary to the Cabinet*.

Norman P. Lambert, *Member of the Senate and former organizer of the Liberal Party*.

Dr. T. L. Tanton, *President, Ottawa Centre, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada; Dominion Government Geologist*,



Percy J. Philip, *Representative in Ottawa of "The New York Times."*  
 Grattan O'Leary, *Editorial Writer and Radio Commentator of the "Journal."*

After the luncheon the party motored to the Government House, the official home of the Governor-General of Canada, the Earl of Athlone, where they registered in the guest's book.

In commenting on the speech given by Miss Achelis in the Lecture Hall of the Museum before the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Ottawa branch, the *Ottawa Citizen*, under a caption which read "New World Calendar Would Allow Greater Precision, Efficiency," said:

"Addressing a meeting in the Victoria Memorial Museum Hall, arranged by the Ottawa Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Miss Achelis said the time to change to the new World Calendar was now.

"*'No war is won by delaying improvements and no success is achieved by clinging unwisely to outmoded patterns and systems,'* she added, 'we have already found that the exigencies of the war have changed the clock-time to a 24-hour clock for the armed forces, they being quick to perceive the need of eliminating the confusion of the A.M. and P.M. method.'

"Similarly in civilian life The World Calendar would overcome the difficulties of the manufacturer, the industrialist, the employer and the wage earner in calculating 'how many weekdays or how many time-and-a-half or double-time days are in a month.' Inconsistency in the present calendar sabotaged valuable energy, time, labor and money, she said, and cited specific instances where such 'sabotage' occurred.

"Dr. T. L. Tanton, Ph.D., president of the Ottawa Centre, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, introduced the speaker, who was thanked by A. J. Hills."

Following this introduction the editor of the *Ottawa Citizen* reproduced the text of Miss Achelis' address in full.

Leaving Ottawa Thursday morning, these representatives of The World Calendar Association arrived in Montreal, Thursday noon, where they were met and entertained at dinner by Daniel P. Gillmor, President of the Montreal Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Together with Mr. Gillmor at a dinner, which preceded Miss Achelis' talk given at the McGill University Amphitheatre, were the following executives of the Montreal Centre: Miss I. Williamson, Henry F. Hall, F. DeKinder, G. Harper Hall, DeLisle Garneau.

In discussing Miss Achelis' address before the Montreal Centre, the *Montreal Daily Star*, January 21, 1944, said:

"Endorsation of The World Calendar by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada would in all probability lead to similar action by the Royal Astronomical Society of London, according to Miss Elisabeth Achelis,

president of The World Calendar Association. Miss Achelis addressed members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada here last night.

"'We stand on the threshold of changes in all ways of life,' she said, 'among which belongs unquestionably The World Calendar.'

"In its mathematical structure The World Calendar is 'well-nigh perfect,' Miss Achelis claimed. There are 12 months arranged into equal quarters of 91 days and each quarter is divided into months of 31, 30, 30. Each quarter will begin on a Sunday and end on a Saturday. To complete the year with the 365th day, there is to be a world holiday, known as December W."

The *Montreal Gazette*, under a caption "Better 'Time-Plan' Seen Needed for Greater World Cooperation," stated:

"Adoption of The World Calendar as an aid to greater world cooperation, order, balance, stability and unity, was urged by Miss Elisabeth Achelis, president of The World Calendar Association, at a meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada last night.

"Miss Achelis claimed that an improved time-plan was imperative as the present calendar was 'costly and wasteful and no longer efficiently served the demands of war nor the needs of civilian life.'

"She described The World Calendar as being in its mathematical structure 'well-nigh' perfect. There were 12 months arranged into equal quarters of 91 days, each quarter beginning on Sunday and ending on Saturday, and each calendar year of 364 days beginning on Sunday, January 1, and closing on Saturday, December 30, she explained."

The consensus of the above mentioned influential people, educators, government officials, scientists, publishers and business men, indicates a definite consciousness of the need for calendar revision. Canadians, keenly aware of the need for pre-postwar planning, were without exception enthusiastic in their support of a Dominion group which would foster The World Calendar plan in that sister country.





# DEATH COMES TO NOTED CHURCHMAN

*By The Reverend Henry Smith Leiper, D.D., Executive Secretary,  
American Section, The Universal Christian Council For Life and Work;  
Member, Advisory Committee, The World Calendar Association*

**T**HE Reverend Dr. William Adams Brown, Presbyterian minister, professor emeritus of the Union Theological Seminary, and a former member of the Corporation of Yale University, died December 15 in the New York Hospital, which he had entered as a patient on December 3, 1943. He would have been 78 years old on December 29.

Dr. Brown became a member of the Advisory Committee of The World Calendar Association in 1938. In accepting this membership he said, "I am glad indeed to have my name associated with something in which I believe so much." His death is a real loss to the Association.

Dr. Brown took an important part in the founding of the World Council of Churches. As chairman of the Joint Executive Committee of the American Section of this Council, president of the American Section of the Universal Christian Council for Life and Work, chairman of the Department of Relations with Churches Abroad of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and a member of the Executive Committee of the World Conference on Faith and Order, he worked increasingly and unsparingly to bring about greater cooperation among the churches of the world.

As president of the American Section of the Universal Christian Council for Life and Work, and concurrently chairman of the Joint Executive Committee of "Life and Work" and "Faith and Order," a position he held until his death, he took an active part in all the calendar deliberations and resolutions passed by that body at its various meetings. He was a convinced advocate of a fixed Easter.

He retired from the faculty of Union Theological Seminary in 1936, after serving 44 years. It is noteworthy that a member of his family had been associated with the Seminary during its entire existence.

In 1942 Dr. Brown was given the great honor of representing the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America at the enthronement of the Most Reverend William Temple as Archbishop of Canterbury in London.

He led the American Section at the Oxford World Conference on Faith and Order in 1937, at which Miss Achelis was an associate delegate. The

following year he was an American delegate to the Ecumenical Conference at Utrecht, the Netherlands, a conference of church representatives of the provisional committee to frame a constitution for the World Council of Churches. Dr. Brown was the author of more than a score of books, nearly all of them on religious subjects. He wrote a highly significant autobiography several years before his death, *A Teacher and His Times*, published by Charles Scribner's Sons, 1940.

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### OBITUARY NOTES

**THE MOST REVEREND GEORGE WINSLOW PLUMMER**, Primate and Metropolitan of the Holy Orthodox Church in America and Archbishop of New York, died January 23, 1944, in St. Luke's Hospital after a four-day illness. His age was 67.

Born in Boston, Archbishop Plummer was graduated from Brown University in 1900 and also attended the Rhode Island School of Design. He had been a theatrical electrician, a police reporter for the old New York *Journal* and had also been associated with the *Cosmopolitan* and the *Delineator*, as a young man.

Archbishop Plummer had been a member of The World Calendar Association since 1932.

**ANDREW FLEMING WEST**, 90, dean emeritus of the Princeton University Graduate School, died December 27, 1943, at his home on the Graduate School grounds. He had been professor of Latin for 45 years.

Since 1934 Dr. West had been interested in The World Calendar Association. At the time of his resignation from active work in 1927, *The New York Times*, commenting editorially, said: "He still keeps and will keep to the end of his days the Deanship of Classical Studies in America."

A controversy over the Graduate College between Dr. West and the late Woodrow Wilson when the latter was president of Princeton ended in a victory for the former. The controversy became nation wide, and in 1910 Isaac C. Wyman, upon his death, left \$2,000,000 for the carrying out of Dr. West's plan. To this was added \$500,000 by Colonel William Procter.

**CURTIS H. VEEDER**, a member of The World Calendar Association since 1931, died December 27, 1943, in the Hartford, Connecticut, Hospital. He would have been 82 years old in January.

Mr. Veeder, an inventor and manufacturer, was president of the Veeder Manufacturing Company of Hartford until his resignation in 1928. Born in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, Mr. Veeder at 18 years of age built what was then a new type of bicycle, which he later sold for \$1,000. Among other of his inventions are bicycle saddles, a bicycle cyclometer, automatic casting machines and a liquid tachometer. In all, he held 95 American and 74 foreign patents.



# WIDE AND GENERAL INTEREST IN WORLD CALENDAR CONTINUES

*By Emerson Brewer, Director, The World Calendar Association*

ORGANIZATIONS as diversified as is commerce and industry itself, groups made up of executives, business men and professional men representing practically every phase of endeavor, have within the past two months either formally passed resolutions endorsing The World Calendar of 12 months and equal quarters or voted the formation of committees to study this new time plan.

Indicative of the wide divergence of interest of those organizations which have passed resolutions is the Chicago Association of Commerce, embracing chambers of commerce and business organizations in greater Chicago, on one hand, and the Suffolk North Association of Ministers, a Massachusetts religious organization, on the other.

Probably the most varied of all is the membership of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, which includes men interested in steel, oil, shipping, merchandising, manufacturing and the various professions.

Manufacturers, fabricators of war materials as well as durable goods for present consumption, are conscious of the need for a stable calendar. This was pointed out by H. G. Malin, Secretary of the Manufacturers' Association of Delaware County, Chester, Pa., an affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers. The resolution of this Association follows:

"RESOLVED, That this Association does hereby favor and endorse the adoption by international agreement of the proposed World Calendar, re-arranging of the present Gregorian Calendar into four equal quarters of 91 days each and providing for an unnumbered day immediately following December 30th of each year as a World Holiday, and for the intercalation of an extra day (also a World Holiday) next following June 30th of every fourth year; the first month of every quarter to commence on a Sunday and have 31 days, and the two succeeding months of every quarter to have 30 days each; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Delaware County

member of Congress and the Two Senators from Pennsylvania be advised of this action taken by the Association."

Inspired in part by A. C. Darmstaetter, President of Darmstaetter's, one of the leading stores of Lancaster, Pa., the Pennsylvania Retailers Association endorsed The World Calendar and recommended that the parent group, the National Retail Dry Goods Association, continue with their study of calendars as the various time plans affected retailing and retail inventories.

Last year the Directors of the National Retail Dry Goods Association, meeting at the Hotel Pennsylvania for their national convention, instructed Lew Hahn, Executive Secretary, to appoint a committee to make this study for this large national organization. The report of this committee has been delayed and that some action be taken to expedite this move was the feeling of the Pennsylvania Retailers Association.

Dan Ferris, Executive Secretary of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, under the auspices of which practically all of America's amateur and interscholastic athletic events are conducted and supervised, has notified their members and affiliated members of the endorsement of The World Calendar by this large organization.

The location of the organizations which recently have passed resolutions favoring The World Calendar of 12 months is in itself a picture of the broad national interest in this change.

Other organizations which passed resolutions include:

Lions Club of Pittsburgh

Danville, Kentucky, Chamber of Commerce

Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Chamber of Commerce

Cumberland, Maryland, Chamber of Commerce

Chillicothe, Missouri, Chamber of Commerce

Hagerstown, Maryland, Chamber of Commerce

Palatine, Illinois, Lions Club

Portales 20-30 Club, New Mexico

Akron, Ohio, Toastmasters Club

Penryth Club, Toronto

Williamsburg (Brooklyn) Kiwanis Club

Camden, Tennessee, Lions Club

Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of New Brunswick

Many organizations have appointed study committees to investigate The World Calendar and to report their findings to the Board of Directors.

Here, too, the interest is broad and the membership all inclusive, ranging from employers in the manufacturing field to members of chambers of commerce and accountants.



Among those which have appointed study committees or have the appointment of these committees as a part of the agenda of the Board of Directors is the American Newspaper Publishers Association, a group composed of the owners and publishers of daily papers throughout the United States. In regard to this appointment, Linwood I. Noyes, President and Publisher of *The Ironwood Daily Globe*, Mich., said: "I will be glad to present your thought and will write you following our next regular board session."

The support and interest of these men, who with radio station operators have such a part in molding public opinion, marks the development of general public interest that has been very gratifying to The World Calendar Association.

Grant Stone of the Cleveland Press, and President of the International Affiliation of Sales and Advertising Clubs, conscious of the need for such a calendar has appointed a study committee made up of James E. Shaw, of Buffalo, Chairman; Lee Trenholm, Toronto; Paul Rathert, Pittsburgh; Carl Abbey, Jamestown, N. Y.; C. E. Cole, London, Ont.; and Joseph T. Labadie, Windsor, Ont.; and the report of their findings will be made at a later date.

Other organizations, committees of which are giving thought to The World Calendar, include:

- American Institute of Accountants
- Eureka Springs, Arkansas, Chamber of Commerce
- East Providence Business Men's Association
- Vernon, Texas, Chamber of Commerce
- Midland, Texas, Chamber of Commerce
- Oconto, Wisconsin, Chamber of Commerce
- Montpelier, Idaho, Chamber of Commerce
- Industrial Bankers Association of America
- Geneseo Civic Club, Kansas
- Associated Employers of Oregon, Inc.
- Elizabeth, New Jersey, Chamber of Commerce
- Independence, Kansas, Chamber of Commerce
- Olean, New York, Chamber of Commerce
- Wisconsin State Chamber of Commerce
- Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal Centres
- Canadian Chamber of Commerce



# BOOK EDITORS REVIEW NEW BOOK BY THE ASSOCIATION HEAD

*The complete comments on the book, The Calendar for Everybody, by book editors and critics associated with newspapers and magazines from coast to coast are too many to record here. The first review with which the survey opens is from the Journal-Gazette, Fort Wayne, Ind., typical of those received in this office. It is gratifying to the author to note in reviewing these criticisms that all of the critics were sympathetic, interested and felt, to quote one, that the writer had established not only a good argument for The World Calendar plan but had written an interesting history of calendars in general. Excerpts from other publications follow the Journal-Gazette review.*

“IT is amazing how long mankind will sometimes allow itself to be handicapped or inconvenienced by institutions or arrangements of its own making. An excellent example is our present calendar.

“Some few years ago Elisabeth Achelis had her interest unexpectedly aroused in the deficiencies of our calendar and soon became so convinced of the need for change as to devote herself to the matter.

“A thorough study of the development of the calendar from its beginnings (4236 B. C. or 3251 B. C.) through its various changes followed. And in these pages the important facts are recorded. Perhaps the most valuable function of such a book as this is to show the calendar for what it is—a man-made instrument full of inaccuracies at first, later changed several times to rectify the errors, sometimes altered to feed an ambitious person’s vanity or not altered because of a group’s prejudice. In short, so thoroughly a human product as to have no sacrosanct qualities whatever.

“Several plans have been promulgated for a new calendar that would be an accurate and also a simpler and more convenient recorder of time than is ours. Miss Achelis points out the difficulties our Gregorian calendar presents to some industries, accountants, banks, etc.

“The World Calendar is presented by the author as one that best fits our needs. It divides the year into quarters, each quarter composed of three months, the first one of which has 31 days and the other two have



30 days, so that each quarter has 91 days. A world holiday, December W, the year-end day, an extra Saturday, follows December 30 every year to make the 365th day. In leap years there is another world holiday, June W, the leap-year day, which follows June 30 and is another extra Saturday. Such a calendar makes every year the same.

"Calendar-makers need not be dismayed for instead of making new cheap calendars every year they can spend their time and effort on creating artistic effects. 'They can be fashioned in gold or silver, bronze or marble, with precious or semi-precious stones. They can be made elaborate or simple, stationary on the wall, or portable for desk or table use, wallet or purse.'

"Miss Achelis enumerates the benefits which The World Calendar brings to science, religion, industry, home, labor, agriculture, government, statistics, education, law, finance, radio, transportation, summer enterprises, entertainments, history.

"The proper time to change is 'when both the old retiring and the new incoming calendars glide smoothly together.' 'The next easy progression will be Saturday, December 30, 1944, when both the old and the new calendars meet.'

"Mixed in with the sanity of the discussion is a much deeper feeling on the part of the author: 'The world holidays, each coming between the Jewish Sabbath and the Christian Sunday, are like the hands of God stretched out from ageless time to welcome both the Saturday and the Sunday of rest, prayer and worship in closer relationship. Like the rainbow bridge that arched the sky after the flood with the promise of better days to come, so the new calendar shines forth, after hundreds of years flooded with disorder and discord, and promises better days to come through the two new world holidays. They form a rainbow bridge of many colors whereon peoples of all climes, customs and faiths join in a spirit of greater fellowship and friendship. The world holidays are the friendly handclasps of time.'

"The time is ripe for this much needed change. Read this little book and see the reasonableness of it."

In discussing Miss Achelis' book, *The Calendar for Everybody*, the *Ottawa Citizen* (Ottawa, Canada) book editor wrote:

"Why should we adopt a new calendar? Because it is time we modernized our civil calendar and brought it into tune with the times. The present one is full of drawbacks and eccentricities. The World Calendar will give us the most perfect time measurement yet devised.

"In civil life, the new perpetual calendar would bring many improvements. To take but one phase of civil activity—government—The World Calendar would lighten the task substantially. The fiscal year would be-

gin always on the same day and date. It would materially simplify comparisons of statistics. The records on customs receipts, income taxes, internal revenue collections and interest paid or received, will be more easily computed. And for the various government departments which require accurate quarterly financial statements, the advantages of The World Calendar, with its equalized quarterly divisions, are apparent. The same considerations apply to every other branch of modern activity.

"Miss Achelis feels very deeply the merits of the new calendar. She says it will 'contribute towards making a better world, making life more beautiful, and making my fellowmen happier.' After reading her book one begins to catch that mood of inspiration one's-self."

*The Calendar for Everybody* should be in every school library, writes the book critic of the *Richmond Times Dispatch* (Richmond, Virginia) "because it deals with the subject of general scientific interest and popular importance with its vital knowledge of man's attempt to measure time.

"This story of the calendar, from the beginning of calendar history to the present time, presents in popular form the summarized arguments for a common-sense calendar, and points out the imperfections of the Gregorian calendar to justify the adoption of The World Calendar with every year the same—no changing of the order of days and holidays in the week, which now causes a world of confusion from year to year.

"The book of 19 chapters includes an account of the failure in 1937 of the League of Nations to adopt the new calendar advocated by The World Calendar Association, and endorsed by 14 nations. This new 'Calendar for Everybody' is so called because every human interest—all institutions of present-day civilization would be greatly benefited by the simple time-clock of the world—benefited in the saving of time, energy and money."

"The World Calendar is undoubtedly a sensible one," writes the book critic of the *New York Sun*. "The proponents of The World Calendar are still waging a vigorous fight for its adoption. Miss Elisabeth Achelis, who gave this system of time reckoning its name in 1930, is out with a new book on the subject." The columnist then explains in some detail the general plan of The World Calendar.

"In *The Calendar for Everybody*, Miss Elisabeth Achelis, The World Calendar's sponsor, argues for its adoption and," says the book editor of the *Columbus Citizen* (Columbus, Ohio), "very completely has recorded all calendar history, demonstrating how easily it has been changed many times, and how easy it would be for us to abolish the present unsatisfactory system."

"This is a day of planning and efficiency," says the *Atlanta Journal*



(Atlanta, Georgia), "and here is a proposal for a well-ordered new calendar and an exposition of its advantages."

*The New York Times* says: "Miss Achelis states the case for a World Calendar in *The Calendar for Everybody*. The book is her latest contribution to this universal idea of measuring time for all years and all peoples. She is practical in her argument but reverent in handling . . . the most ancient of all expressions of nascent civilization, an agency for which during thousands of years religion has been the trustee."

In a syndicated column, appearing in many newspapers, another book critic writes: "Miss Elisabeth Achelis has written a New Year 'must' book under the title of *The Calendar for Everybody* and inasmuch as she has devoted her life and fortune to calendar reform for more than a dozen years she is able to go clear down the line in furnishing satisfactory proof that the new world needs a new practical and common-sense calendar and that The World Calendar of 12 months and equal quarters is just what the world needs."

*The Calendar for Everybody, Elisabeth Achelis, 1943, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2 W. 45th St., New York 19. 141 pages. \$1.50 cloth.*

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS A PROBLEM

BY GEORGE DIXON

*From "Capital Stuff," The Daily News, New York, N. Y., December 7, 1943*

IN accordance with the traditions of diplomacy, there should be an exchange of Christmas greetings between the gentlemen who signed the blunt "Roosevelt" (no first name or initials) and the equally emphatic "Stalin" to the Teheran pronouncement issued today, dated December 1.

But this raises a delicate problem. The Russian calendar does not run in step with ours. Christmas in Russia is celebrated on January 7, because the Orthodox Church still adheres to the old Julian calendar, established by Julius Caesar. On the other hand, the Communist state, for official documents, uses, as does the English-speaking world, the reformed calendar of Pope Gregory, established in 1582.

So far as the holy celebration of the birth of the Saviour is concerned, the land of Stalin holds this on January 7, and, among the religious, in much the same manner as we celebrate the day here—a tree for the children and exchange of gifts among adults. Like Christmas, Easter in the land of the Soviets falls on a different date—the first Sunday after the first full moon in Spring.

There are two Soviet holidays of more importance than Christmas and Easter, however, but virtually equal—in the eyes of the Soviet—the anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution, celebrated November 7, and May Day, May 1.



# GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT HEAD AND MATHEMATICIAN CLARIFY ADOPTION DATES

*By Elisabeth Achelis, President, The World Calendar Association*

**E**VER since I first advocated The World Calendar it has been my steadfast conviction that the interest of everyone would best be served were The World Calendar to be adopted with the minimum of disturbance. Such a time comes this year, 1944, on Saturday, December 30, when there is a natural blending of the two calendars. The following day, the old December 31, would become the new December W, the World Holiday; and New Year's Day, January 1, 1945, observed on a *Sunday*, would initiate The World Calendar as our new time recorder.

Wishing to know whether any other dates would be suitable for the adoption previous to January 1, 1950, "the next available date," I wrote to H. W. Bearce, Chief, Division of Weights and Measures, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, for information. This action resulted in an article written by him that was published in the last issue of the *Journal*, the Fourth Quarter of 1943.

As a result of this article, a letter was received from one of the long-standing members of the Association, B. F. Yanney, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio, in which he pointed out the fact that the dates suggested by Mr. Bearce were correct, but adoption on those dates would cause serious complications resulting in the need for an adjustment of one or two days. This letter was immediately transmitted to Mr. Bearce for his confirmation. Mr. Bearce responded confirming Professor Yanney's statements.

A letter was then written to Professor Yanney requesting more detailed information on the subject, to which Professor Yanney replied more explicitly.

Firm in my conviction that the adoption of The World Calendar should be accomplished without disturbance or unnecessary adjustments, and convinced that this information will be of extreme importance to all those who are interested in calendar reform, I am reproducing the correspondence from both Mr. Bearce and Professor Yanney.



Wooster, Ohio, January 13, 1944

Elisabeth Achelis, President  
The World Calendar Association  
International Building, 630 Fifth Avenue  
New York 20, N. Y.

Dear President Achelis:

Permit me to say a few words in reference to Mr. Bearce's proposal, page 164 of the *Journal*, Fourth Quarter, to the effect that the date Sunday, July 1, 1945, "would serve admirably as the starting point" for the third quarter of The World Calendar.

In the first place it must then be evident that the first half of The World Calendar for 1945 would have to include as its January 1 the last day, that is, December 31, of the Gregorian for 1944. Furthermore, contrary to what the proposer states, the last day of the old Gregorian year could not possibly be made a part of The World Calendar for that year. For, there are 184 days in the Gregorian calendar from July 1 to December 31, inclusive, while only 183 days are needed to make up the last two quarters of The World Calendar. What to do, then, with December 31 of the Gregorian year 1945? Well, the only thing that can be done is to make it the first day of the new World Calendar year, 1946. And so on.

There are other complications that I see involved in this departure from the hitherto publicised policy of The World Calendar Association, *viz.*, to cause in the inauguration of the new calendar as little disturbance as possible in the old. Let what I have presented be sufficient, at least for the present. Above all, I do not intend to get mixed up in a controversy and so jeopardize the splendid work you and your Association have accomplished.

Most cordially yours,

(Signed) B. F. Yanney

Washington, D. C., January 31, 1944

Professor B. F. Yanney  
Wooster, Ohio

Subject: Calendar revision

Dear Professor Yanney:

Miss Elisabeth Achelis, President of The World Calendar Association, has sent me a copy of your letter to her under date of January 13, 1944, and I am glad of an opportunity to comment on your criticism of my article that appeared in the *Journal of Calendar Reform*, Fourth Quarter 1943.

While it is true, as you point out, that my plan of putting The World Calendar into effect on July 1, 1945, would result in shortening the year 1945 by one day, that should, perhaps, not be regarded as so serious a matter as to rule it out of consideration. It will be recalled that 11 dates were dropped out of September 1752, thus shortening that year by 11 days.

In fact, shortening the year 1945 by one day would have the advantage of "taking up the slack" that has accumulated as a result of having our Gregorian leap years slightly too often, and would correct the calendar in that respect for a period of some 3,300 years.

I am, however, inclined to withdraw my further suggestion that the change to The World Calendar could properly be made at any time when The World Calendar and the Gregorian Calendar are in agreement, for example, Friday, March 1, 1946, or Wednesday, May 1, 1946, since to make the change on either of these dates would result in shortening the year 1946 by two days. That, admittedly, would not be desirable. It would be better to wait until the change could be made at the beginning of a year, as on January 1, 1950.

I am grateful to you for your having brought the matter to the attention of Miss

Achelis, and pointing out the desirability of making the change to The World Calendar at such a time that not only will there be no interruption or discontinuity in the days of the week, but also that there will be no change in the length of the year.

Respectfully,

(Signed) H. W. Bearce

Chief, Division of Weights and Measures

Wooster, Ohio, February 13, 1944

Miss Elisabeth Achelis, President  
The World Calendar Association  
International Building, 630 Fifth Avenue  
New York 20, N. Y.

Dear Miss Achelis:

This letter is in compliance with your request made in your supplementary letter of February 8, 1944.

I assume that there is now agreement on this statement: July 1, 1945, of the Gregorian Calendar, and July 1, of The World Calendar, do not synchronize, even though the day of the week in each case is Sunday; for in the first instance the day is yearday number 182, while in the second it is number 183.

The proposal to adopt The World Calendar on July 1, 1945, starting on that date with the beginning of the third quarter of the new calendar and dropping one day of the Gregorian year (it is not stated which day is to be dropped), is a rather abrupt departure from the Association's principle of simplicity, stressed from its very beginning as a motivating power in securing general acceptance. I think it unnecessary to rehearse what has been said all along about the ease and smoothness with which The World Calendar could be inaugurated at the beginning of a year whose Gregorian calendar starts with Sunday. Then later it was discovered that the transition could be made also with little necessary adjustment at the end of a leap year which itself ends on Sunday, of which the current year is an example. Instances of the Gregorian style of calendar year beginning on Sunday, since the organization of The World Calendar Association, were 1933 and 1939.

This matter of when to inaugurate the new system is, in my opinion, still of primary importance. I think it is generally conceded that a Gregorian year starting with Sunday is the best type from which to make the transition to the new calendar. But to make the transition proposed, by mutilating both the Gregorian year and the first World Calendar year, bristles with complications. In the first place it is unprecedented to drop a day from a particular year in anticipation of an error of one day still three thousand years, or more, away. And it is no adequate justification of this to claim that years in the past have thus been shortened. In those instances errors had accumulated to a number of days. They had to be dealt with. They might have been annulled in another way, as suggested by an English scientist and reported on page 182 of the latest *Journal of Calendar Reform*. But the real point is that the problem was on hand then and there. We are not facing such a problem, the error still unprovided for by the Gregorian rules amounting at present to a rather small fraction of a day. Furthermore the proper place for this problem is in the hands of astronomers, and, on this matter, I quite agree with you in what you said in your address before the Amateur Astronomers Association, November 4, 1942. (See last paragraph, page 131, Vol. 12, *Journal of Calendar Reform*).

I am not familiar enough with fields of thought and endeavor outside of my own specialty, mathematics, to give in detail the specific complications that the proposed irregularity would create. Before starting this letter I re-read much of what has appeared in the columns of the *Journal*, including your articles and published addresses; Professor Bristow Adams, "Popular Acceptance," "Voice of the Colleges," with spe-



cial reference to what is said under the caption, Astronomers; James Truslow Adams, "Historian Looks at Time," and Dr. H. Spencer-Jones, F. R. S. (Of special note is this: "Proposals for the reform of the calendar do not affect the year, as determined by the Gregorian calendar.")

I think this will suffice, and I hope I have made my point of view clear. Above all things I do not wish to become involved too deeply in controversial matters. My paramount interest is in a successful launching of The World Calendar.

With all best wishes, I remain

Cordially yours,

(Signed) B. F. Yanney

In view of the fact that adoption of The World Calendar on Sunday, July 1, 1945, would cause the loss of one day, and on either Friday, March 1, or Wednesday, May 1, 1946, the loss of two days, which would result in complication and disturbance, it now becomes clear to us that in the interests of greater harmony and more general acceptance, we can consider as possible dates for the adoption of The World Calendar only those that do not involve the loss or the addition of days.

This is possible, as previously mentioned, at the end of this year, when both calendars agree on Saturday, December 30, and the following day, the old December 31, could be the new December W; and the beginning of the year, January 1, 1945, could become the first year of the new time-plan.

Should, however, the 1945 adoption prove impossible, then I strongly urge that action be taken in 1947 (which in the United States is not a presidential campaign year), and nations and civilians will have three years to prepare and get ready for the actual operation of The World Calendar on Sunday, January 1, 1950.

## —Your 1944— Calendar

CALENDARS are scarce. To help meet the demand, a *Sunday Dispatch* calendar, with a record of important dates in 1944, is presented in Page SIX.

Cut it out, paste it on card-board, and you have your record for the year complete.

From *London Dispatch*  
Nov. 7, 1943

# SMILING THROUGH . . . By LEE

[No. 2,895] COMPLEX NEW YEAR



**"Now that's a nice calendar, madam. Pre-war. But if you remember that Mondays are Sundays until Tuesday, February 29, it will do nicely for 1944."**

*Reprinted from the London Evening News, Dec. 30, 1943*



# INTERNATIONAL DATE-LINE SEEN AS FORERUNNER OF WORLD CALENDAR REFORM

*By Commander Wendell Phillips Dodge (Ex-Lieutenant-Commander, U.S.N.R.)*

*An observer of world-wide experience, explorer, journalist, former Naval officer, an expert in international affairs, of world trade and sea power, Commander Dodge speaks with authority on maritime matters. He has edited many leading magazines in this country and abroad, including the fine old Strand Magazine and The Wide World Magazine of London, and for many years was prominently identified with leading metropolitan newspapers.*

WITH postwar planning uppermost in the minds of the peoples of the earth while the present terrific global war still remains a long calendar problem, serious consideration of the adoption of the new World Calendar is timely since the last four months of 1944 are identical in both the old and the new calendars. And it is far-reaching in its benefits—for industry, for labor, for finance, for agriculture, for science, for law, and for government. Likewise, and particularly so, for shipping and world trade.

Does not the psalmist tell us that a thousand years in the sight of the Lord is but a day, and a day a thousand years? And at the dawn of creation "God divided the light from the darkness" and "called the light Day and the darkness he called Night." That evening and that morning inaugurated the first day, and three days later the calendar had its beginnings: Sun, moon and stars were ordained "for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years."

Man will endure and survive after the present un-Christian, un-Godly global war, as did the Patriarch Noah the flood. So, too, may man be expected to reform his calendar, even as Noah's *first* calendar served to give assurance that no such catastrophe in the future ever would be permitted "while the earth remaineth."

It is but natural, then, that everything vital concerning the calendar should issue from the sea—the ocean, incentive to colonial expansion, the great path of transportation; the ocean that comprises two-thirds of the

earth's surface, relegating the lands to a marginal position facing its vast expanse.

And so, it is to the maritime world that the calendar means so much more than to all other of man's activities.

More generally observed far and wide than the Ten Commandments of some three thousand years' history, the calendar also is older. For the calendar, preceding law, has been a writ where the law has yet to be accepted and enforced. Yes, the calendar is of remotest antiquity—the earliest man at once realized the value of time and its reckoning. Archeologists are not aware of any primitive people, capable of sculpture, who have failed to attempt some measurement of time.

Philip Whitwell Wilson, for one score and one year on the editorial staff of the *London Daily News* and a special correspondent for *The New York Times* in Paris when our paths crossed, in a highly informative and intensely interesting book, *The Romance of the Calendar*, writes:

"Can it be said that during the millennia of man's recorded activities, however many of these millennia there may be, anything has been elaborated that, in its field of uninterrupted continuity, is comparable with the calendar?"

And in his treatise on *Babylonian Menologies and the Semitic Calendars*, Professor S. Langdon of Oxford informs us that "the calendar is the framework of any civilization, the time index for all business transactions and religious observances, the rule by which all daily life is regulated."

In order to pass as quickly as possible through history, suppose we had arrived in a Far Eastern port prior to that vicious long-planned attack on Pearl Harbor and entered the house of a Hindu soothsayer to peer into a crystal ball. Here we would see the calendar pass in review—I take you to P. W. Wilson's narrative:

"... you will see dim and clouded reflections—shaven priests in their slow parades within the shadows of the Pyramids—the majesty of Babylonian monarchs—the ancient scholarship of a China that has faded with the centuries into the prehistoric—Maya maidens advancing in processional dance to the terraced shrines of Yucatan—Hebrew rabbis studying the priceless scrolls of their Mosaic law—Popes in the Vatican consulting the most venerable of their learned ecclesiastics—astronomers in their observatories filling volumes with their geometrical calculations—captains of industry examining graphs and charts of production and consumption and costs—seamen in their ships whose safety depends on the accuracy with which they use their Nautical Almanac—"

The Nautical Almanac deals with two systems of time—solar and sidereal. The first is reckoned by the successive transits of the sun over the Greenwich Meridian and is divided into 24 hours, each of which represents 15 degrees longitude. All clocks and timekeeping systems throughout



the civilized world, including as well Japan and Nazi Germany, are kept on what is called Mean or Civil Time.

This is based on the motion of a mean, or imaginary, sun, which always moves at the same speed and crosses the prime meridian every 24 hours on the instant. Around the world divisions are called local civil or local mean time, based on the longitude of the place and the transits of the sun over the local meridian.

These local meridians have been standardized so that the local time, or zone time, is changed in periods of one hour, corresponding to 15 degrees of longitude for each hour change of time. Thus at San Francisco the standard meridian is 120 degrees west and the local time eight hours earlier than Greenwich Time, because it takes the sun eight hours after crossing the meridian at Greenwich to arrive at the 120th meridian west of Greenwich. The standard time at Manila, based on the 120th meridian east of Greenwich shows the local time as just eight hours *later* than at Greenwich because after crossing the meridian 120 degrees east it takes the sun eight hours to arrive at Greenwich.

Due to the ellipticity of the earth's orbit, however, the sun does not actually move at this uniform speed, varying about 16 minutes either behind or ahead of the mean sun. This introduces what in navigation is called Apparent Time. The difference between Mean and Apparent Time is given in the Nautical Almanac for each two hours of Greenwich Civil Time and is called the Equation of Time. This is used to correct the readings of chronometers, which must, of necessity, keep Mean Time.

*At the instant of Greenwich Noon, the date is the same all over the earth.*

And according to Greenwich Time the 180th meridian indicates midnight—a day ends and a new day begins. This meridian is known as the Date or Calendar Line—the *International Date-Line*. And right here is the real compass direction leading to practical calendar reform.

Both the clock and the calendar have been receiving the attention of experts from the beginning of recorded time. Homer's day consisted of but morning and evening. Five periods—dawn ending at sunrise; the time of sacrifice lasting until noon; full light continuing till sunset; the rising of the stars, and the time of prayer closing the day at midnight—filled out the day of the ancient Persians.

Astronomy has shown that the earth rotates on its axis with almost precise regularity, and that the stars are so infinitely distant from the earth that their direction in space is constant day by day, whatever be the earth's position in its orbit around the sun. This provides a perfect unit of time known as Sidereal Time, which never varies.

By drawing a meridian, north and south, through any point on the earth's surface and noting when a star passes the meridian, then waiting

until the earth in rotating passes the meridian again, the interval between the two transits of the star across the meridian is a Sidereal Day.

A Solar Day is the same as a Sidereal Day with the sun substituted for a star—the period of 24 hours elapses while the meridian through a point on the earth's surface passes the sun and returns to the sun. That is, they are the same except for a fundamental difference. The one is a constant, the other a variable. With the earth revolving in an ellipse round the sun and with the axis of the earth tilted at an angle to the plane of the earth's orbit, the Solar Day lengthens and shortens during the year. A sundial indicates that day only agrees with clock time on four dates in the 12 months of the calendar year.

This brings us to the proposed modern calendar which is based upon the solar year of 365 days with a 366th day "intercalated" every four years—and with the 365th, as an extra day, giving a year of 364 days as a base, the year to be divided into four quarters of 91 days each. Well, I'll stop right here and leave this planning to The World Calendar authorities, and content myself with a brief recital of the practical use of such a changed calendar to the maritime world of shipping and communications.

When America entered this war our Merchant Marine fleet totaled only 10,500,000 deadweight tons. By the end of 1944 we may have as much as 50,000,000 tons. Those two simple figures reveal the scope of the greatest shipbuilding and ship operation story in the history of the world.

If a rough translation is made, the United States may have five ships on the high seas where once we had only one. The shipping services may employ five men where in prewar days they employed only one. We will have a merchant fleet equal to or greater than the combined fleets of all other maritime nations.

No one would deny that this nation has assumed a tremendous obligation to American taxpayers and to the world. These vessels are tremendously vital, not only for the sake of our economy, but they are also vital to all nations. They will help set right the things so torn asunder by the misfortunes of war. They will serve as vehicles to carry the materials which will be required desperately in all corners of the globe.

The immediate problem of foresighted and thinking men is: What will this country do with such a tremendous fleet? How will it be employed in the wisest manner?

It cannot be impressed too strongly that this is a maritime nation, and always has been. This is a country with 7,000 miles of coastline. It has at least 60 good-sized cities along those coasts. Its very economy long has been based upon trade—not trade just in the sense of exchanging goods, but in the broader sense that so many of our world relationships have long depended upon ships—American ships.

Yes, this nation's shipping is perhaps its most vital industry. It affects



everyone in the United States, either directly or indirectly. In its very operation the American Merchant Marine is a great consumer of materials and services produced in this country. Our vessels use fuel, food and equipment of all sorts in tremendous quantities and require many different types of services for their continued operation and upkeep.

The money being spent on our huge shipbuilding program is circulating freely throughout the nation, with a substantial portion of it finding its way to many of the states in the country's Western sector, states where shipbuilding a few years ago didn't mean much in the way of employment or dollars.

Some \$56,000,000 worth of ship parts are being built in Denver, which is a mile above sea level, with eight ironworking concerns and a number of subcontractors engaged in fabricating hulls, bulkheads and deck sections for fighting ships and merchant vessels.

Another area that is enjoying the benefits of millions of shipyard dollars is the Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico section, which, with only 23 per cent of the country's population, is producing 50 per cent of our copper, 97 per cent of domestic molybdenum, virtually all of our supply of vanadium, 24 per cent of our lead and 20 per cent of our zinc—all of these metals being highly essential in shipbuilding.

Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Arkansas have over 200 manufacturing concerns that are filling contracts for ship parts and fittings that cost upward of \$170,000,000. These four states, normally considered as non-shipbuilding, are producing zinc, lumber, cement, wire rope, cable, sisal, galley ranges, tugboats, barges, Diesel engines, electrical equipment, invasion barges and buoys.

Those are some of the reasons why so many of us are deeply concerned about the employment of our vast fleet once the war has ended.

In reconstructing a war-torn world, it is evident to everyone that it means virtually rebuilding a continental Europe, Russia and China. Those jobs will take ships—every available ship. The resumption of normal trade will occupy a good portion of our ships. No one knows how many ships will be needed for new trades that will develop as a result of the war.

It is not proposed to overwhelm any other maritime nation in the course of such duties and such trade. There should be collaboration with our Allies. The American people have no desire to dominate world trade, but they have the right to insist that American ships carry a substantially increased share of American trade and be permitted a reasonable and justifiable entry into world shipping.

All the nations of the world are inescapably interdependent. The domestic economy and prosperity of the United States require substantial foreign trade, both for raw materials and as an outlet for our agricultural and industrial products. Foreign trade is a balance wheel against recur-

ring periods of domestic depression. We must have a merchant fleet sufficient to serve our international requirements.

The rehabilitation of the war-torn world will be bound to occupy our present merchant fleet, not only during the immediate emergency following the peace, but for many years thereafter. We will send materials to almost every country, feed their people, cloth them and reestablish them as nationals within their own countries. We will have to ship them steel, cotton, beef, machinery, and seeds to replant their fields. The requests that these countries will make on the United States for food and other agricultural products will be staggering, and the problem of relief will exceed that of even the last war when 30,000,000 tons of goods were sent abroad. In this country, as elsewhere, industry will need to be furnished with raw materials to get peacetime employment started again. The war will exhaust the stock piles of goods and materials that each country had in peacetime.

To meet all these requirements there must of necessity be an expansion of our agricultural, manufacturing and mining industries in the postwar period. Supported by these enlarged activities of our basic industries, our national economy in the postwar period will surpass anything we ever knew in peacetime. It will be, as it must be, at a level to meet our war indebtedness and other obligations. More important it will furnish employment to men and women who have been engaged in activities related to war.

It should be evident that the production and distribution of these goods and others will require the services of our Merchant Marine. There must be ships to export these commodities to other countries—which will need them as much as ourselves.

American agriculture, American manufacturing and American industry in general have been helpful to the Merchant Marine of this country through generations. An opportunity will be provided to reciprocate. We will have the ships for everything that the American farmer, manufacturer and producer wants delivered. Behind the ships and at the service of America's industries will be skilled and experienced management—American-flag steamship companies which are demonstrating in this war their ability to handle a large merchant fleet under the most difficult operating conditions.

Just as vital to the country and to the whole world is our Merchant Marine as a factor in our national defense. This war has proved that the effectiveness of our Army and Navy is directly dependent upon the size and efficiency of our Merchant Marine.

Just ponder how the Axis powers accumulated much of the wealth and power with which to wage wars. They insisted on carrying the bulk of their foreign commerce. Japanese ships carried almost 70 per cent of



Japan's commerce, Germany 58 per cent and Italy 46 per cent. The Axis nations moreover made it virtually impossible for any other country to participate in the transportation of this trade. How well they succeeded can be seen in the figures for 1938 when the Axis Merchant Marine had close to a 12 per cent grip on United States foreign commerce while American ships, flying the flag of the country that produced this volume of business, carried only 25 per cent.

In the year 1938, which already has been taken as a standard (because at that time no nation except China and Spain was directly affected by war), we were carrying only 25 per cent of our foreign commerce in a merchant fleet which totaled 12,000,000 deadweight tons. We were dealing with countries considered economically stable, irrespective of their political philosophies. We were enjoying the greatest freedom of the seas in the history of this world.

Now, we have reached a point when this country has the greatest opportunity for maritime development in its history. Let us not lose that glorious opportunity to serve not only our country, but all countries.

Everyone knows that the standards of living in the United States are considerably higher than in any other country in the world. With this go higher wages, and American seamen are known the world over for two things in particular—more pay and better accommodations aboard American ships. This means greater operating costs reflecting higher freight rates. And heretofore, at least, this state of affairs has had a very detrimental effect upon the competitive operation of American ships on the high seas.

When the war ends it is to be expected that our ship operators will have a long-awaited and golden opportunity to get off to a better start in the great international race for world trade. We will have the SHIPS.

Establishing our argument on the premise that we will have this tremendous Merchant Marine tonnage, these thousands of well-trained Merchant Marine seamen, coupled with the fact that public opinion will force us to become a maritime nation once more, means only one of two things.

The government will have to subsidize the Merchant Marine so it can compete favorably with other nations whose cost of operation is far less than ours, or we will have to operate our vessels with greater efficiency.

A vessel, regardless of its tonnage, that stays tied up to a wharf an extra day or an extra hour means increased cost of operation, which reflects itself in the necessity for an increased charge for freight handled. We have the goods, we have some inland waterways—and we have the railroads to prevent such a tie-up.

I regret to say that we have not been known internationally either as an aggressive maritime nation or as a nation that knows how to take short cuts in either scheduling, loading or unloading our sea-borne freight. But

this global war is changing all this, largely on account of Lend-Lease and our winning of the decisive victory of transportation.

We are going to have to develop greater skill and greater care in scheduling our vessels. We are going to have to give more thought to shipping dates, dates of arrival and those things which keep a vessel tied up, neither receiving freight nor unloading cargo.

All of this calls for long-range planning and routing, which in turn anticipates all of the factors which might cause vessels to be inactive. The crux of the whole thing is timing, not necessarily timing by hours and minutes but timing by days.

This timing can only be made possible by a judicial and constant effective use of the calendar. Ships that arrive in port on holidays or Sundays may mean red ink for that day's or that week's cost of operation. On the other hand, when these dates of arrival—weather permitting of course—are well planned, dock charges, extra labor charges and overtime costs can be avoided. If we are going to sharpen our pencils and sit down at a table and compete with foreign nations, past masters in maritime shipping, we are going to have to cut every corner and watch every angle.

These factors impressed me tremendously when I first came across The World Calendar plan. With a calendar, international in scope, traffic problems, while they could not be dismissed entirely, would become definitely less involved for the shipper.

It is true the vast majority of shipping contracts and schedules are based on the calendar we use here in the United States, but there is that factor of shifting holidays, uncertain week-ends, irregular months and unbalanced quarters.

I am not concerned with the shipping problem alone, but I can see where the comparability and stability made possible by The World Calendar of 12 months of equal quarters would lessen the bookkeeping problem, the office maintenance problem, and the intricate bookkeeping occasioned by various types of freight and the consequential varied rates.

A plan once set up and established, a plan definitely part of an office operation, would not have to be changed with every vagary of the calendar, because The World Calendar makes every day, date and period the same year in and year out.

Personally, as an ex-Navy man and student of foreign trade, I cannot help but see that the adoption of The World Calendar would reduce our costs of operation in America's Merchant Marine. The World Calendar would effect a saving, one of the savings which must be anticipated and become a part of our plan if we are to compete favorably with the more aggressive, experienced, less expensively operated ships of our foreign competitors. *Don't forget the International Date-Line!*



# WHAT DAY IS TODAY?

*By Frank C. Waldrop*

*From Times Herald, Washington, D. C., January 1, 1944*

**B**Y courtesy of the late Pope Gregory XIII, today is New Year's Day. So far as he was concerned, the matter was settled in 1582. He decreed an end to the old calendar organized by Julius Caesar and ordered the installation of his own.

But the matter wasn't settled so far as the rest of the world was concerned.

One of the consequences of his act was that in England on what should have been September 3, 1752, crowds roared through the streets, demanding: "Give us back our 11 days!"

Men thought their time on earth had been tampered with. Anti-papery politicians in London inflamed the mob with stories that it was all a Romish plot to do some unspecified harm to the public.

Mathematicians and bankers had persuaded Parliament to adopt a "Calendar New Style Act," swinging Britain over from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar after almost 200 years' delay.

Experts tried to explain the sense of it all, but the crowd still roared for the lost 11 days.

Those days had been clipped off the year 1752 in order to bring the new calendar and the eternal seasons into gear.

Yet, down to this day, the Church of England runs a separate calendar of its own, for religious purposes, in which New Year's Day falls on March 25. It still prefers this era of Julius Caesar to that of Gregory XIII in calendar matters.

As a matter of fact, neither the Julian nor the Gregorian calendar is good enough.

Caesar's calendar was a slick mathematical performance for its day—considering that the astronomers of those times didn't even know the earth circles the sun or the moon circles the earth. They thought the sun went around the earth, if anything.

Pope Gregory's calendar was even a better job for its day, and came very close to getting the right time for a year, the period we have in mind when we discuss the time it takes the earth to circle the sun.

That period, incidentally, is calculated by modern astronomers to be 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and about 46 seconds long.

That is an extremely awkward and misfortunate development, because 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds cannot be divided into any arrangement of equal time intervals.

Roughly, we separate the year into four quarters; 12 months; 52 weeks of 7 days each; and 365 days of 24 hours each. Then we refine the hours into 60 minutes each and the minutes into 60 seconds each.

But still that isn't enough. The quarters are of unequal size because the months are of unequal size, because the time stretch won't slice evenly.

The actual time it takes the earth to swing around the sun overlaps the calendar time allowed by so much that every fourth year we throw an extra day onto the end of the shortest month to take up the slack.

We're doing that this very year, 1944, leap year.

Why is it necessary? Well, consider what would happen, otherwise. We know the calendar exists because men like to think and plan ahead. We keep track of the passing days and that helps us foretell, within very rough limits, the future.

For instance, a farmer living in near-by Maryland or Virginia knows that by March 15 he had better have his crop lines for the year pretty well worked out. But how does he know when March 15 is?

By looking at the calendar and by that way only. You think you could keep up with the passage of time without a calendar but you couldn't. People have tried, but they've never succeeded.

So, according to the calendar, January 1, each year is predictable as a cold day in this particular spot on the face of the earth.

But suppose there were no adjustment of the calendar by the leap-year method, to take up that slack period that slops over beyond the calendar allowance for a year.

In about four years, the extra 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds per year would total a whole 24 hours. Then January 1 would, in fact, come one day earlier than it had four years before. In four years more it would turn up two days earlier.

You can see what would happen. In a few generations, the calendar would be calling for January 1 on a hot day of what used to be June. And that wouldn't be so good. As with January 1, so with all other days.

Even with this adjustment, the calendar still contains one great fault, for January 1 may fall on any day of the week, since the quarters of the year don't work out evenly, nor do the months. This year it falls on a Saturday. Next year it comes on—a Friday, or a Sunday? You probably don't know which, but you know it won't be Saturday, though everybody wishes it would.

If all quarters of the year were equal, all months equal, all holidays



falling on the same day of the week each year, everybody would find the calendar a better thing.

For instance, banks and insurance companies could calculate interest payments so they would fall at evenly spaced intervals. So could finance companies taking your note for the living room furniture. And so could YOU.

Rents could be paid at equal intervals.

Crops could be calculated to start on the best weekday as well as the right season. Business could be geared to a sensible holiday routine all year.

All these and many, many other benefits could come to us if a really universal calendar were adopted in law and in custom.

The World Calendar Association, a non-profit organization with offices at 630 Fifth Avenue, New York City, has worked out a "perpetual calendar," along lines that are approved by leaders of all principal religious faiths in the United States, by our principal astronomers, by leaders of industry, farming, labor and by just plain people in general.

## THE BACK YARD

By PAUL TALBOT

*From United Business Service, Boston, January 8, 1944*

ONCE more—as we start a new year—I urge the adoption of an improved calendar—The World Calendar.

Out of many years of study, discussion, and controversy, The World Calendar has emerged as the almost unanimous choice of businessmen, religious leaders, scientists, statisticians, and the general public. This calendar continues the 12-month year, and has four equal quarters of 91 days each. Every month has 26 weekdays (exclusive of Sundays) and "month dates" fall on the same "weekdays" from year to year. Every year, and every quarter, begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday.

The annual "odd day" falls between December 30 and January 1 and is called Year End Day. The plan is to make this a world-wide holiday. Similarly, every fourth year, a Leap-Year Day would fall between June 30 and July 1 and would also be a holiday.

If you desire further information concerning the details or workings of this calendar, I suggest that you write to The World Calendar Association, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York City, and ask for the *Journal of Calendar Reform*.

This all may seem like an "unimportant detail" in these days of world upheaval—but it is not. It is a move that will substantially benefit the human race for hundreds of years to come, and this year is the time to do something about it, because our present Gregorian calendar and The World Calendar will exactly coincide on December 30, 1944.



# CURRENT PRESS COMMENT

## Worth Studying

Ottawa (Canada) Citizen

November 18, 1943

ROTARIANS were told about the new World Calendar by A. J. Hills on Monday. It is to be hoped that those who heard Mr. Hills' address will pursue the matter further. The World Calendar would really be a great advance if it were adopted.

The present calendar is unbalanced, irregular, unsettled. Its days, weeks, months and quarters are constantly shifting. Month-dates never fall twice in succession on the same day. In these days of shrinking distances and transportation problems, it means a great deal of extra work and unnecessary personal inconvenience.

What is The World Calendar? It is an improvement on the present Gregorian calendar and retains all the progress achieved in calendar-making in the past, while clearing away the absurdities, the incongruities and unbalance of the current calendar. The World Calendar has equal quarters, 91 days each. It has month-dates that stay put—always the same weekday.

No sharp break with habit is involved in a change over to The World Calendar. It is just an improved scientific budgeting of the time-units to which mankind is already accustomed. It is a logical, grown-up calendar. As already suggested, it is worth a little study by business men.

## Sees Change As Moderate

Oklahoma City (Okla.) Oklahoman

November 13, 1943

EVERY so often an effort is made to revise our clumsy and unscientific calendar system.

One of the most recent movements in this direction is that of "The World Cal-

endar Association," with offices in New York.

Its proposal for revision is moderate, as it suggests only that we keep our present 12 months, but do away with the 28-day idea for February, and, for the rest, make eight months of 30 days and the others 31.

Also in Leap Years two World Holidays would be added, in June and December, with ordinary years having one, in December.

The Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce has endorsed the idea, also 14 foreign nations.

There are three principal obstacles to calendar reform. One is the widespread belief that there is something sacred about the present system, because of the seventh-day Sabbath or historical concepts. Another is the interruption or disruption of contractual instruments. The third is plain inertia—"We'd rather not be bothered about it."

However, this problem will have to be met some day. The present system is inefficient and clumsy. The calendar has been revised before, and it can be revised again. The new proposal may not be the answer to all the questions, but it is a healthy symptom.

## New Calendar Book Makes Good Case

Houston (Tex.) Post

November 21, 1943

THE World Calendar, what it is, how it would function and points in its favor are discussed by Elisabeth Achelis, its ardent advocate in *The Calendar for Everybody*.

Calendar reform has been a lively topic for a number of years. For a time there was talk of a 13-month year, but this has waned as Miss Achelis and her associates in The World Calendar Association have campaigned for adoption of a four-quarter year calendar which they sponsor. She makes a good case for the calendar in her book.



# EXCERPTS AND REVIEWS

## *Easily Arranged*

By TED ROBINSON

*From Cleveland, O., Plain Dealer, November 17, 1943*

"YOU spoke the other day," writes D. R., "of the probability that the calendar would soon be reformed. But you stopped there, leaving many of us in suspense. Just what direction do you expect the reform to take, and how is it to be put across? . . . And when the alteration is made, will it be permanently satisfactory? Is it possible to arrive at a final and perfect form?"

There are too many questions here to be answered all at once, but we may make a start. In the first place, we know that the ancient Egyptians had a 12-month calendar of 30 days in each month. That calendar was in some ways better than those that succeeded it; each month was the same, each year was the same. Five days were added at the end of each year to make up the 365. But of course this got further and further off as the years went by.

The Julian calendar of Rome, with the Augustan and Constantinian revisions, was almost like our own, but the making of every fourth year a leap year proved increasingly inaccurate; the Gregorian calendar was adopted (with much trouble and opposition) to correct the discrepancy. We still use it; it is inconvenient and illogical. It changes every year. No two like years follow each other; the months have four different lengths; any month can begin on any of the days of the week; we can't tell without looking it up which day the 18th fell on, or what day of the month Thursday will be. Christmas can come on any day of the week; Easter on any date from March 22 through April 25.

There are two simple programs for reform. One is the 13-month calendar in which there are 28 days in each month; so that the first day is always Sunday. There is a 29th day in December, called Year Day; and in leap years there is a 29th day in June, called Leap Day. That

is too radical a change to get itself adopted; the conversion of dates from old to new at the start would be a tremendous job—and there are other drawbacks.

The League of Nations was working on something more practical, the 12-month equal-quarter plan, when the war interrupted its sessions. This calendar, known as The World Calendar, is bound to be adopted, sooner or later. In this, the quarters are equal; each quarter begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday, and contains three months, or 13 weeks, or 91 days. Each month has 26 weekdays, and month-dates always fall on the same weekdays. Each year begins on Sunday, January 1. A World Holiday, called December W, follows December 30 every year. In leap years, there is a June W, too.

It is so simple and so easily arranged that it will probably be adopted without too much opposition.

## *Time to Bunch The Old Calendar*

*From The Democrat, McConnellsburg, Pa. January 13, 1944*

JANUARY 1, 1945, will begin on Sunday if The World Calendar is adopted at that time. The months of April, July and October will also begin on Sundays. This 12-month equal-quarter calendar is the same every year. Each quarter begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday, with 13 weeks in each quarter, 91 days. To keep the quarters intact there is an extra world holiday at the close of December, the Year-End Day, an extra Saturday, which follows December 30 every year; a world holiday at the end of June, the Leap-Year Day, another extra Saturday, follows June 30 in leap years. The present calendar has "grasshopping" month dates never twice in succession on the same weekday. The World Calendar has month dates that stay put—always the same weekday; it begins every year on Sunday, ends every year on Saturday.

Miss Elisabeth Achelis has written a New Year "must" book under the title of *The Calendar for Everybody*, and inasmuch as she has devoted her life to calendar reform for more than a dozen years she is able to go clear down the line in furnishing satisfactory proof that the New World needs a new practical and common-sense calendar, and that The World Calendar of 12 months is just what the World needs.

## 1 Date With Time

From The Evening Standard, London, England, December 29, 1943

A GROUP of earnest men and women scattered around the world will adjust their calendars from December 31 to January 1 this week-end with sentiments of sadness and hope nicely blended.

They are the members of The World Calendar Association, whose view is that our present calendar wastes time, being unbalanced, unstable and irregular," and should be discarded in favor of their proposed calendar. Their "time-plan" divides the year neatly into regular quarters, ending genially with a day to be known as December W—a world holiday.

Headquarters of the Association are in the United States, but they have supporters in this country. Lord Desborough, now 88, is a member of the Foreign Advisory Committee. Lord Desborough has enjoyed a variety of interests, from swimming the Niagara River (twice) to presiding over many official bodies. He took to reforming the calendar some years ago, and his great interest in the matter continues. Lord Desborough is at his home in Hertfordshire.

Lord Desborough reminds me that the Fixed Easter Act, which he proposed in the House of Lords, has received the Royal Assent, but is held up pending agreement among Christian denominations.

"As most nations are engaged in trying to kill each other, it is not easy to get attention paid to calendar reform," says Lord Desborough.

"He is tremendously keen about calendar reform," Lady Desborough told me. "He has been connected with the Association from its first days. Having a fixed Easter is another thing he is keen about.

All his views on this subject are distinct."

I have been reading the latest issue of the *Journal of Calendar Reform*, published by the Association in New York. With the slogan, "A new calendar for a new world," they set out an abundance of reasons for adopting their calendar.

It closes with a confident claim of the "global aspects, and benefits this new time-plan will bring to the entire world and to everyone."

## Faces Easter Problem

INDICATIVE of the problems which merchants face because of a variable Easter date is the following rule of the War Production Board which appeared in "Government Digest" of *Washington Review*, January 29, 1944:

The War Production Board has announced that Inventory Limitation appeals resulting from the variable Easter date will be promptly considered, as Easter on April 9 is 16 days earlier this year than last. Many stores merchandise some or all of their spring stocks in relation to Easter.

WPB is prepared to give sympathetic attention to any retailer who appeals on the basis that an earlier Easter necessitates some temporary adjustment of inventory control. Appeals should be filed in accordance with Paragraph (g) (3) of Order L-219 and addressed to the WPB Wholesale and Retail Trade Division, 5301 Empire State Building, New York 1, New York. If a merchant has never filed reports under L-219, completed Forms WPB-1620 and WPB-1621 must be submitted with his appeal.

## 2,500,000 To Go

By W. T. LOTTIS

From Collier's, February 19, 1944

WHILE a February without a full moon takes place about five times in every century, this occurrence in 1866 was accompanied by the rarest lunar phenomenon on record. The preceding January and the following March had two full moons each, a sequence that will not happen again for at least 2,500,000 years.



## FROM THE MAIL BAG

The difficulties of our present calendar are one of the topics discussed in my course in Business Statistics.—Richard L. Kozelka, Associate Prof. of Economics and Statistics, University of Minnesota.

Truly The World Calendar Association has accomplished much, and with the adoption of The World Calendar the year 1945 will be a happy one for all the nations of the world. I see great values in the new calendar and wish you the best of fortune in bringing about its final consummation. Wishing you good success, accept my best regards and kindly convey my compliments to all The World Calendar Association members from a friend far away in Yemen—Haj Abbas Abdulla, Interpreter and Translator to H. M. Imam, King of Yemen, Sanaa, Arabia.

I should like to say that I am strongly in favor of calendar reform and consider it would be a valuable factor in world planning after the war. If the U. S. A. would approve, probably all the other nations now cooperating would also make this change.—C. Chapman, Brighton, England.

I have been very much interested in your new pamphlet. It is well written and very cleverly ties the subject in with world conditions. Sincerest good wishes for the success of your great work.—Mrs. J. L. B. Buck, Second Vice-President, General Federation of Women's Clubs, Richmond, Va.

I shall try not to miss an opportunity to aid the coming of The World Calendar.—Clyde Fisher, Honorary Curator, American Museum of Natural History, N. Y. C.

The special booklet *The World Calendar . . . A New Calendar for a New World* is especially good. Very clear, a plain statement that should convince everybody who sees it.—McDonald Steers, Athletic Department, Yale University.

The calendar is a perpetual source of trouble and I have recently had to write to three different people who inquired about the authenticity of dates that I gave, they forgetting the difference between New

Style and Old Style, which change came in the middle of the 18th century. Anything which can be done to bring the calendar more nearly in conformity with the astronomical movements of the earth and sun will save an enormous amount of trouble.—James Truslow Adams, Historian, Southport, Conn.

A great convenience to have all years alike.—Arthur W. Smith, Prof. of Physics, Univ. of Mich., Ann Arbor.

For many years I have been in favor of a readjustment of the calendar, and The World Calendar seems to me the best so far proposed.—C. A. Chant, Editor, *The Journal* of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Toronto.

No reason exists why the world should not or could not have a universal and perpetual calendar embracing a perfect perpetual cycle.—Allen J. McCallum, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

The World Calendar has my unqualified approval—glad to do anything to further the cause. Press and radio should get behind it.—George W. White, Equip. Acct. Pere Marquette Railway, Detroit.

Your World Calendar appears to be a sign of the times—for we look forward to a coordinated reconstructed world, and to a world regarded as a unity, no longer a conglomerate of diverse parts.—Margaret Whyte, Nanaimo, B. C., Canada.

It will be a wonderful step forward when the new calendar is adopted as it must surely be.—Caleb A. Harding, New York City.

For a long time I have thought of a new calendar and have discussed it many times. If at any time I can be of service in promoting this new calendar in the Southeast, please call on me.—E. K. Brook, War Production Board, Atlanta, Ga.

After a few years it is going to be necessary to rebuild the entire world and I hope at that time we will be able to take advantage of The World Calendar.—A. M. Harding, President, University of Arkansas.



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